

# St...e of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER Executive Director JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

November 20, 2007

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT 7005 2570 0000 4801

Todd Wilhite Wall & Rock Inc. P. O. Box 826 Pleasant Grove, UT 84062

Subject: Propose Assessment for Cessation Order MC07-01-14, Wall & Rock Inc., S390024,

Unpermitted Operation in Sanpete County, Utah

Dear Mr. Wilhite;

The undersigned has been appointed by the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining as the Assessment Officer for assessing penalties under R647-7.

Enclosed is the proposed civil penalty assessment for the above referenced cessation order. The cessation order was issued by Division Inspector, Lynn Kunzler, on November 1, 2007. Rule R647-7-103 et. seq. has been utilized to formulate the proposed penalty for the Cessation Order as follows:

• MC-2007-01-14- Violation 1 of 1 \$2,200

The enclosed worksheet specifically outlines how the Cessation Order was assessed.

By these rules, any written information which was submitted by you or your agent within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the Cessation Order has been considered in determining the facts surrounding the violation and the amount of penalty. If the violation has not been abated at the time of the proposed assessment, the assignment of good faith points cannot be made. If you feel that you are eligible for good faith, you should supply relevant information to the assessment officer within 15 days of the violation abatement date so that it can be factored into the final assessment. A reassessment will be completed and sent to you upon termination of the Cessation Order.

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Under R647-7-106, there are two informal appeal options available to you:

- 1. If you wish to informally appeal the <u>fact of the Cessation Order or the fact of the Violation</u>, you should file a written request for an Informal Conference within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. This conference will be conducted by the Division Director, Associate Director or appointed Conference Officer. This Informal Conference is distinct from the Assessment Conference regarding the proposed penalty.
- 2. If you wish to review the proposed penalty assessment, you should file a written request for an Assessment Conference within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. If you are also requesting a review of the fact of violation, as noted in paragraph one, the assessment conference will be scheduled immediately following that review.

If a timely request for review is not made, the fact of the violation will stand, the proposed penalty(ies) will become final (after factoring in any good faith points upon termination), and the penalty(ies) will be due and payable within thirty (30) days of the final assessment. Please remit payment to the Division, mail c/o Vickie Southwick.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock Assessment Officer

Q Haddock

drh/vs

Enclosure: Worksheet

vickie Southwick, Exec. Sec. Vicki Bailey, Accounting

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# WORKSHEET FOR ASSESSMENT OF PENALTIES DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING Minerals Regulatory Program

COM	IPANY /	MINE	Rock Wars (Tod)	Wilhite)/Freedom_PERMIT_L	Inpermitted (S390024)		
NOV	/ CO#	MC-	07-01-14	VIOLATIO	ON <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>		
ASSI	ESSMEN	NT DA	ΓE <u>November</u>	20, 2007			
ASSI	ESSMEN	NT OFF	TICER <u>Daron R.</u>	Haddock			
I.	HISTORY (Max. 25 pts.) (R647–7-103.2.11)						
	A. Are there previous violations, which are not pending or vacated, which fall within three (3) years of today's date?						
	PREV	'IOUS	VIOLATIONS	EFFECTIVE DATE	POINTS (1pt for NOV 5pts for CO)		
		none	)				
II.	TOTAL HISTORY POINTS 0  SERIOUSNESS (Max 45pts) (R647-7-103.2.12)						
	NOTE	Ξ:	For assignment of points in Parts II and III, the following apply:				
		1.	Based on facts supplied by the inspector, the Assessment Officer will determine within each category where the violation falls.				
		2.	Beginning at the mid-point of the category, the Assessment Officer will adjust the points up or down, utilizing the inspector's and operator's statements as guiding documents.				
			an EVENT (A) or n points according	Administrative (B) violation? _to A or B)	Event		
	A.						
		1.	What is the event	which the violated standard wa	as designed to prevent?		

## Mining without appropriate approvals/Environmental Harm/Damage

to Property

2. What is the probability of the occurrence of the event which a violated standard was designed to prevent?

<b>PROBABILITY</b>	<u>RANGE</u>
None	0
Unlikely	1-9
Likely	10-19
Occurred	20

# ASSIGN PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE POINTS 20

#### PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

\*\*\* An Operator is required to file a notice of intention to commence mining operations with the Division of Oil Gas and Mining prior to conducting mining operations. A GPS survey of the area showed approximately 8.8 acres of disturbance at this location without the operator having obtained approval to do so or without posting a bond. Rock and mineral material has been excavated from the site using mechanized equipment and some rock has been hauled from the site. Disturbance has actually occurred.

3. What is the extent of actual or potential damage?

**RANGE 0-25** 

In assigning points, consider the duration and extent of said damage or impact, in terms of area and impact on the public or environment.

ASSIGN DAMAGE POINTS 10

### PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

\*\*\* The inspector stated that mining activity was occurring on an area of approximately 8.8 acres. The Operator was excavating and removing rock from this area. Damage would be the loss of resources such as permanent vegetation and soil from the area disturbed. No soil had been salvaged during the mining operation. There is potential for sediment to leave the site, but no evidence of impacts off the site was directly observed. The disturbed area would continue to grow if the activity was not stopped. While there is a fair amount of disturbance, the site should be readily reclaimable. Points are assigned in the lower-mid part of the range.

- B. ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS (Max 25pts)
  - 1. Is this a POTENTIAL or ACTUAL hindrance to enforcement? <u>NA</u>
    RANGE 0-25

Assign points based on the extent to which enforcement is actually or potentially hindered by the violation.

ASSIGN HINDRANCE POINTS N/A

#### PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

# III. <u>DEGREE OF FAULT</u> (Max 30 pts.) (R647-7-103.2.13)

A. Was this an inadvertent violation which was unavoidable by the exercise of reasonable care? IF SO--NO NEGLIGENCE; or, was this a failure of a permittee to prevent the occurrence of a violation due to indifference lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care, the failure to abate any violation due to the same or was economic gain realized by the permittee? IF SO--GREATER DEGREE OF FAULT THAN NEGLIGENCE.

No Negligence 0
Negligence 1-15
Greater Degree of Fault 16-30

STATE DEGREE OF NEGLIGENCE Negligence

ASSIGN NEGLIGENCE POINTS 10

#### PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

\*\*\* The inspector indicated that the operator has been involved with other mining operations in Tooele (M/045/064) and Juab County (S/023/087). This Operator should have been aware of the requirement to file a NOI prior to conducting mining operations. The fact that a NOI was not submitted or a bond provided, indicates indifference to the rules or lack of reasonable care. A prudent operator would understand the need to obtain the necessary permits prior to conducting mining operations. Because of the prior history, the Operator has manifested a higher amount of negligence and points are assigned at the mid to upper end of the negligence scale.

# IV. GOOD FAITH (Max 20 pts.) (R467-7-103.2.14)

(Either A or B) (Does not apply to violations requiring no abatement measures)

A. Did the operator have onsite, the resources necessary to achieve compliance of the violated standard within the permit area?

IF SO--EASY ABATEMENT

Easy Abatement Situation

X Immediate Compliance -11 to -20\*

(Immediately following the issuance of the NOV)

X Rapid Compliance

-1 to -10

(Permittee used diligence to abate the violation)

X Normal Compliance

0

(Operator complied within the abatement period required)

(Operator complied with condition and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan)

- \*Assign in upper of lower half of range depending on abatement occurring the 1st or 2nd half of abatement period.
- B. Did the permittee not have the resources at hand to achieve compliance, or does the situation require the submission of plans prior to physical activity to achieve compliance?

IF SO--DIFFICULT ABATEMENT

#### Difficult Abatement Situation

X Rapid Compliance -11 to -20\*
(Permittee used diligence to abate the violation)

X Normal Compliance -1 to -10\*

(Operator complied within the abatement period required)

X Extended Compliance 0
(Permittee took minimal actions for abatement to stay within the limits of the NOV or the violated standard of the plan submitted for abatement was incomplete)

(Permittee complied with conditions and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan)

EASY OR DIFFICULT ABATEMENT? difficult

ASSIGN GOOD FAITH POINTS \_\_-

#### PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

\*\*\* The abatement for this violation has not been completed yet so good faith points cannot be assigned. The assignment of good faith can occur once the abatement requirements have been met and is contingent upon the Operator's diligence in achieving compliance. This category will be evaluated again upon termination of the Cessation Order.

# V. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY (R647-7-103.3)

NOTICE OF VIOLATION # MC-07-01-14					
I.	TOTAL HISTORY POINTS	0			
II.	TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS	30			
III.	TOTAL NEGLIGENCE POINTS	10			
IV.	TOTAL GOOD FAITH POINTS				
	TOTAL ASSESSED POINTS	40_			
	TOTAL ASSESSED FINE	\$ 2,200			